

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete list of the claims now pending. This listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An image search apparatus for searching an image database for desired image data, the image database ~~storing~~ containing a plurality of stored image data in correspondence with image feature amounts for each image data of the plurality of stored image data stored in the image database, said apparatus comprising:

^{105, 119}
input means for inputting a search condition;

¹⁰³
display means for displaying a plurality of image data obtained as a result of a search, corresponding to the search condition inputted by said input means, of the plurality of stored image data contained in the image database as a search result, corresponding to an input search condition, obtained by a search of image data from the image database;

¹²³
selection means for selecting image data, designated by a user, from the plurality of image data displayed by said display means as a result of the search;

¹²³
image feature amount computing means for computing an image feature amount of the image data selected by said selection means; and

image similarity computing means for computing an image similarity on the basis of the image feature amount computed by said image feature amount computing means[[,]] and the image feature amounts of the plurality of stored image data stored in the image database.

[Claims 2-5 (canceled)

2
Claim 6 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display means comprises search means for searching for the desired image data by designating attribute information appended to the image data, and

wherein when a search is made by said search means, said display means displays a list of image data found by the search of said search means.

01 [Claims 7-9 (canceled)

7
Claim 10 (currently amended): An image search method for searching an image database for desired image data, the image database ~~storing~~ containing a plurality of stored image data in correspondence with image feature amounts for each image data of the plurality of stored image data stored in the image database, said method comprising:

an input step of inputting a search condition

a selection step[[,]] of selecting image data₁ designated by a user₁ from [[the]] a plurality of image data displayed as a search result obtained by a search, corresponding to ~~an input~~ the search condition inputted in said input step, obtained by a search of the plurality of stored image data [[from]] contained in the image database;

an image feature amount computing step[[,]] of computing an image feature amount of [[an]] the image data selected in said selection step; and

an image similarity computing step, of computing image similarity on the basis of the image feature amount computed in said image feature amount computing step[[,]] and the image feature amounts of the plurality of stored image data stored in the image database.

[Claims 11-14 (canceled)

⁸
Claim ~~15~~ (currently amended): A method according to claim ~~10~~⁷, further

comprising:

^{col}
a display step[[,]] of displaying the plurality of image data obtained as a result of the search performed on the plurality of stored image data contained in the image database; and

a search step[[,]] of searching for the desired image data by designating attribute information appended to the image data,

wherein the display step includes a step of displaying a list of image data ~~found by a~~ obtained as a result of the search performed in said search step, ~~when the search is made in said search step.~~

[Claims 16-18 (canceled)

⁹
Claim ~~19~~ (currently amended): A computer readable memory that stores a program of an image search method for searching an image database for desired image data, the image database ~~storing~~ containing a plurality of stored image data in correspondence with image

feature amounts ~~[[of]]~~ for each image data of the plurality of stored image data stored in the image database, said program comprising:

program code for inputting a search condition;

program code for ~~a selection step~~, of selecting image data, designated by a user, from ~~[[the]]~~ a plurality of image data displayed as a search result obtained by a search, corresponding to an input the search condition inputted by said input program code, found by a search of the plurality of stored image data from the image database;

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program code for ~~an image feature amount computing step~~, of computing an image feature amount of the image data selected ~~[[in]]~~ by said selection ~~[[step]]~~ program code; and

program code for ~~an image similarity computing step~~, of computing image similarity on the basis of the image feature amount computed ~~[[in]]~~ by said image feature amount computing ~~[[step,]]~~ program code and the image feature amounts of the plurality of stored image data stored in the image database.

10
Claim ~~20~~ (currently amended): An image search apparatus for searching an image database for desired image data, the image database ~~storing~~ containing a plurality of stored image data in correspondence with image feature amounts for each image data of the plurality of stored image data stored in the image database, said apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting handwritten information;

display means for displaying a plurality of image data obtained as a result of a search of the plurality of stored image data in the image database, the plurality of

stored image data being searched on the basis of [[input]] the handwritten information inputted by said input means;

selection means for selecting color information of image data designated by a user from the plurality of image data displayed by said display means as a result of the search;

image feature amount computing means for computing an image feature amount of an image drawn in a drawing area, ~~which includes having~~ including the color information of the image data selected by said selection means; and

image similarity computing means for computing an image similarity on the basis of the image feature amount computed by said image feature amount computing means[[,]] and the image feature amounts of the plurality of stored image data stored in the image database.

11 10
Claim ~~21~~ (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim ~~20~~, wherein the color information of the image data is selected by said selection means ~~is selected~~ by indicating one pixel in the image data.

12 10
Claim ~~22~~ (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim ~~20~~, wherein the color information of the image data is selected by said selection means ~~is selected~~ by indicating a predetermined region in the image data.

¹³
Claim ~~23~~ (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim ~~22~~¹², wherein

the color information of the image data designated selected by indicating the predetermined region in the image data by said selection means is an average value of pixel values contained in [[the]] a small region.

Claims 24 and 25 (canceled)

¹⁴
Claim ~~26~~ (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim ~~20~~¹⁰, wherein the color information of the image data selected by said selection means is selected on the basis of an image drawn on the drawing area.

¹⁵
Claim ~~27~~ (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim ~~20~~¹⁰, wherein said image feature amount computing means computes the image feature amount of the drawn image each time the image in the drawing area is modified.

¹⁶
Claim ~~28~~ (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim ~~20~~¹⁰, further comprising display control means for controlling a display of the drawing area within a display window displayed by said display means.

¹⁷
Claim ~~29~~ (currently amended): An image search method for searching an image database for desired image data, the image database storing containing a plurality of stored

image data in correspondence with image feature amounts for each image data of the plurality of stored image data stored in the image database, said method comprising:

an input step of inputting handwritten information;

a selection step[[,]] of selecting color information of image data, designated by a user, from a plurality of image data displayed as a search result obtained by a search of the plurality of stored image data in the image database, wherein the search being performed searched on the basis of [[input]] the handwritten information inputted in said input step;

an image feature amount computing step[[,]] of computing an image feature amount of an image drawn in a drawing area, ~~which includes having~~ including the color information of the image data selected in said selection step; and

an image similarity computing step[[,]] of computing an image similarity on the basis of the image feature amount computed in the image feature amount computing step[[,]] and the image feature amounts of the plurality of stored image data stored in the image database.

¹⁸ Claim ~~30~~ (currently amended): A method according to claim ¹⁷ ~~29~~, wherein the color information of the image data selected in said selection step is selected by indicating one pixel in the image data.

¹⁹
Claim ~~31~~ (currently amended): A method according to claim ¹⁷~~29~~, wherein the color information of the image data selected in said selection step is selected by indicating a predetermined region in the image data.

²⁰
Claim ~~32~~ (currently amended): A method according to claim ¹⁹~~31~~, wherein the color information of the image data obtained designated by indicating the predetermined region in said selection step is an average value of pixel values contained in [[the]] a small region.

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Claims 33 and 34 (canceled)

²¹
Claim ~~35~~ (currently amended): A method according to claim ¹⁷~~29~~, wherein the color information of the image data selected in said selection step is selected on the basis of an image drawn [[on]] in the drawing area.

²²
Claim ~~36~~ (currently amended): A method according to claim ¹⁷~~29~~, wherein the image feature amount computing step includes [[the]] a step of computing the image feature amount of the drawn image every time the image in the drawing area is modified.

²³
Claim ~~37~~ (currently amended): A method according to claim ¹⁷~~29~~, further comprising:
a display step of displaying the plurality of image data obtained from a search of the plurality of stored image data stored in the image database; and

a display control step, of controlling to display the drawing area within a display window displayed in ~~[[the]]~~ said display step.

24
Claim ~~38~~ (currently amended): A computer readable memory that stores a program of an image search method for searching an image database for desired image data, the image database ~~storing~~ containing a plurality of stored image data in correspondence with image feature amounts for each image data of the plurality of stored image data stored in the image database, said program comprising:

program code for inputting handwritten information;

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program code for a ~~selection step~~, of selecting color information of image data, designated by a user, from ~~[[the]]~~ a plurality of displayed image data obtained by a search of the plurality of stored image data stored in the image database, wherein the search being performed ~~searched~~ on the basis of the ~~[[input]]~~ handwritten information inputted by said input program code;

program code for an ~~image feature amount computing step~~, of computing an image feature amount of an image drawn in a drawing area, ~~which includes having~~ including color information of the image data selected ~~[[in]]~~ by said selection ~~[[step]]~~ program code; and

program code for an ~~image similarity computing step~~, of computing an image similarity on the basis of the image feature amount computed ~~[[in]]~~ by said image feature amount computing program code ~~[[step,]]~~ and the image feature amounts of the plurality of stored image data stored in ~~[[in]]~~ the image database.

□ Claims 39-49 (canceled)

³
Claim ~~50~~ (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the image data selected by said selection means is copied in a
drawing area, and

wherein said image similarity computing means computes the image
similarity on the basis of an image feature amount, computed by said image feature amount
computing means, of the image data copied in the drawing area[[,]] and the image feature
amounts of the plurality of stored image data stored in the image database.

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Claim ~~51~~ (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim ~~50~~³, further
comprising modifying means for modifying the image data copied in the drawing area,

wherein said image similarity computing means computes the image
similarity on the basis of an image feature amount, computed by said image feature amount
computing means, of the image data modified by said modifying means[[,]] and the image
feature amounts of the plurality of stored image data stored in the image database.

⁶
Claim ~~52~~ (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the
plurality of image data displayed by said display means is displayed on the basis of the image
similarity computed by said image similarity computing means.

⁵
Claim ~~53~~ (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim ~~50~~³, wherein the drawing area and the plurality of image data are displayed in the same window.

[Claim 54 (canceled)

²⁵
Claim ~~55~~ (new): An image search apparatus for searching an image database for desired image data, the image database containing a plurality of stored image data in correspondence with image feature amounts for each image data of the plurality of stored image data stored in the image database, said apparatus comprising:

- (1)
- an input device for inputting a search condition;
 - a selector for selecting image data, designated by a user, from image data displayed as a result of a search, corresponding to the search condition input by said input device, of the plurality of stored image data from the image database;
 - an image feature amount computer for computing an image feature amount of the image data selected by said selector; and
 - an image similarity computer for computing an image similarity on the basis of the image feature amount computed by said image feature amount computer and the image feature amounts of the plurality of stored image data stored in the image database.

²⁶
Claim ~~56~~ (new): A program for controlling an image search apparatus for searching an image database for desired image data, said image database containing a plurality of

stored image data in correspondence with image feature amounts for each of the plurality of stored image data stored in the image database, said program comprising:

program code for receiving an input search condition;

program code for selecting image data, designated by a user, from a plurality of image data displayed as a result of a search, corresponding to the input search

condition, of the plurality of stored image data from the image database;

program code for computing an image feature amount of the image data selected by said selection step program code; and

program code for computing an image similarity on the basis of the image feature amount computed by said image feature amount computing program code and the image feature amounts of the plurality of stored image data stored in the image database.
